

Child Development Dayhomes NEWS

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTING INFORMATION FOR DAYHOME EDUCATORS AND PARENTS



March 2024

Educator Workshop

▶ Community of Practice: Reflection and the Planning Process

Date and Time: March 26, 2024, 6:30-8:30pm

Location: At the Hub

In preparation for March's COP, please reflect on what you are curious about, stumped about, challenges you, confused about, interested in, etc. Send me a photo that reflects this curiosity by March 15th, 2024.

Congratulations!

To the following dayhome educators celebrating their anniversaries with CDDH in the month of March

	Geeta Patel	5 years	
	Geetanjali	5 years	
	Cristie	2 years	
	Salma	2 years	
	Uchenna	2 years	
	Arlyn	1 year	

Welcome New Educators!



Nezha Paras
Bhagya (Bhashini) Vithanage
Hamidah Javeed
Irina Krinitskaya



Car Seat Info Sessions

Upcoming Date:

More [info](#).



Parent Feedback Survey

Let us know how we are doing.
Take the Parent Feedback Survey [here](#).

Upcoming Statutory Holidays

Good Friday: March 29, 2024

Easter Monday: April 1, 2024



Happy Birthday to the following Educators!

Aiel, Coleen, Dianna, Elianne,
Kathlyn, Khaula, Shamaila



Attendance Records Due:

Sunday, March 17 by 6:00pm

Dayhome Educators, please ensure all the times for the month have been entered on TimeSavr.

Fort McMurray Community Events

▶ ATC Career Fair - Employment and Training

Date and Time: March 5, 2024, 10:00am - 3:00pm

Location: Syncrude Sport & Wellness Centre (9908 Penhorwood St)



▶ Girls' (Em)powerment Mini Gala (ages 9-15 years)

Date and Time: March 8, 2024, 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Unifor Building (10019 MacDonald Avenue)

Cost: Free, **Register:** [here](#)



▶ 2024 Fort McMurray Job Fair

Date and Time: March 13, 2024, 11:30am - 7:00pm

Location: Grand Ball Room @ Shell Place (1 MacDonald Dr)

Cost: Free



▶ YMM Hareport Eggstravaganza

Date and Time: March 16th, 2024, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Fort McMurray International Airport

Cost: 11.98\$ **Tickets:** Click [here](#).



▶ Big Brothers Big Sisters - Bowl for Kids Sake

Date and Time: March 23, 2024, 2:00 pm

Location: The Alley (8528 Manning Ave. Suite 15)

Cost: Donations **Website:** <https://woodbuffalo.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/event/bowl-for-kids/>

▶ Easter Egg Hunt 2024

Date and Time: March 27, 2024, 4:00pm - 7:00pm

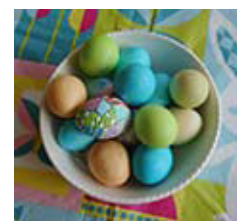
Location: McMurray Metis, outdoors in the Cultural Village and inside the Kahkiyaw Gathering Place

▶ Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt

Date and Time: March 29-31, 2024, 10:30am - 12:30pm

Location: #7 - 235 MacAlpine Crescent

Cost: \$20/hunter



Activity Idea

▶ Cloud Dough Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups corn starch
- 1 cup baby lotion
- Food coloring (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a bowl, mix the lotion and cornstarch together until combined.
2. Separate and add food coloring to make different color dough! (optional)

You can store it in a Ziploc bag or Tupperware container for a few weeks just make sure you squeeze the air out every time.



Educator Professional Learning Highlights

ELCC Diploma: Aysha Aamir

Brain Story: Afshna, Maria F, Gul Jana

Picky Eaters Workshop: Sidra, Fatima

Car Seat Safety: Dianna

ASAP Modules 1&2: Bernadette, Afshan, Arlyn

Moving Towards Reconciliation: Aiel (Module 1 and 2), Zohra (Module 2)

Flight Reflections: Maria B.

Responsive Feeding Workshop: Vandana, Sara, Najma, Shamaila, Fatima, Portia, Trupti, Aysha, Geeta and Saadia

Licensing Workshop: 65 educators!!!

2024 AECEA Early Childhood Educator Award of Recognition

Deadline for nominations: April 5, 2024
More [info](#).

AECEA
Association of Early Childhood Educators of Alberta

Standard

FAMILY DAYHOME STANDARDS MANUAL FOR ALBERTA

This manual contains the standards for Dayhomes and Dayhome agencies to provide child care.

Every month we will review a Standard.



Standard 4C: Outdoor Play Space

The program must ensure that children have access to outdoor play space.

If the outdoor play space is part of the program residence, it must be securely enclosed.

If the outdoor play space is not part of the program residence, it must be within a safe and easy walking distance. The agency can exempt a program, using a CS-approved form, from the requirement to have the outdoor play space securely enclosed if outdoor play space that is securely enclosed is not reasonably available and if children will be adequately supervised and protected in the outdoor play space provided.

The form used to exempt a program must be approved by CS annually and any changes to the form must be pre-approved by CS. A copy of the exemption form must be stored on the program's record with the agency and parents must be informed at the time of enrolment that the program has an exemption.

Recipe Idea

Breakfast Bars

Ingredients:

- 1 cup raisins
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup brown sugar lightly packed
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup sunflower seeds
- 3 cups honey nut cheerios

Directions: <https://www.averiecooks.com/no-bake-honey-nut-cheerios-snack-bars/#mv-creation-794-jtr>



Learning Story: Hard Work

Story by Meaghan, Dayhome Educator

We went to our secret spot in the Birchwood Trails. We hadn't been there in so long, it was nice to visit a familiar place where we have made so many memories since September when everyone started at the Curious Sparrow.

The boys all took turns doing "hard work", lifting big logs and re-arranging them. They made a house and moved in a couch.

Feli, Mateo and Dashiel found "surf boards" and practiced their balance riding the waves. Conveniently enough, Feli even had a snorkel with him, very fitting for their imaginative play.

Feli and Dashiel problem solved how to remove logs frozen into the ground by using smaller sticks to chip away the ice. Feli found a small log that looked like a mug with a handle.

We enjoyed our morning snack before returning home for lunch.



Learning Story Continued...



Educator Survey Results

In December we sent a survey to our Dayhome Educators. Here is a summary and Agency responses at the end.

Educator feedback about their Consultant;

- Support and encouragement to attend ongoing professional development
- Shares professional development opportunities
- Positive communication regarding family and childcare situations
- Ideas shared for programming
- Help with finding backup care for families
- Provides guidance and support to meet licensing and agency standards
- Support with environment such as information about materials
- Shows appreciation
- Easy to contact and answers any questions

Educator feedback about their Admin Team;

- Organized
- Ready to solve problems and answer questions
- Help to collect fees
- Support with Professional Development Funding
- Professional
- Child care referrals and backup care
- Support with financial reports and being paid on time
- Good communication



Educator feedback about the Agency;

- Useful information in the newsletter
- In-person learning opportunities
- Knowledge in early childhood
- Resources and ideas
- Offers First Aid

We asked our educators how they make the children's culture, traditions and home life visible in the dayhome;

- Children's books
- Festivals and celebrations
- Recipes shared from home
- Music
- Dance
- Materials

- Paintings and Art
- Inviting children's families to participate in the dayhome
- Read about different cultures and discuss with families to get more information about their family's traditions
- Family photos on the wall
- Celebrating children's birthdays
- Using words from the child's first language
- Family events such as potlucks

Suggestions from Educators

- Paid Holidays and Sick Days for Educators

Agency Response: As part of the cost control framework, Children and Family Services is exploring options for improving wages and benefits for Early Childhood Educators. Announcements and updates should be available here: <https://www.alberta.ca/cost-control-framework-and-for-profit-expansion-plan>

- Orange Shirt Day and Remembrance Day not being a paid stat day

Agency Response: Child Development Dayhomes will be closed for National Truth and Reconciliation day on September 30, 2024 and Remembrance Day on November 11, 2024. These days will be paid dayhome closures.

- Suggestion for group visits to be more accessible in all areas of the city and to offer more educator connections

Agency Response: We appreciate your interest to participate! Stay tuned to the newsletter and emails from your consultant for more of these opportunities

- Finding backup care is hard

Agency Response: On the survey, we asked our educators "In order for families to choose family dayhomes as a viable childcare choice, they need to access back-up care when their dayhome is closed. Do you provide backup care? Why or why not?"

Educator Responses:

"Why? because I want to help those families in need of back up care. Why not? Child is new to the dayhome and not adjusted to the environment and children in care sometimes get confused."

"Support families and my colleagues. And I might need my colleagues to support the families in my caseload if I need a day off."

“I believe all educators under this agency should help each other whenever needed”

“As of now , I am not providing it due to a family member health conditions! I need to have same families just to make sure that we’re staying in good health for now , in the future -yes I would be able to provide back up care!”

Educators would like more information on;

- Cost Control Framework

Agency Response: Please visit for more information <https://www.alberta.ca/cost-control-framework-and-for-profit-expansion-plan>

- Government grants and funding

Agency Response: Please visit for more information <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-child-care-grant-funding-program>

- More information on the rules and regulations from the government

Agency Response: Our Licensing Officers for our Fort McMurray and Edmonton agencies hosted a workshop for our Dayhome Educators on February 5th highlighting the role of Child Care Licensing, what Educators can expect during a home inspection and answered questions. Our licensing officers have put together a list of answers to questions Educators asked. We will forward these to our Educators.

- Activities to do with children with special needs

Agency Response: Did you know we have an Inclusive Child Care team within our Agency to support consultants, Dayhome Educators and children and their families? If you have any questions please contact Veronica@childdev.com or Pauline@childdev.com.

- Updated illness policy being sent to parents directly

Agency Response: Consultants send the Parent Handbook to families and review it during the registration. Educators have a copy posted in their bulletin boards. The most recent version of our Illness Policy is always available on our website here on page 7: <https://childdev.com/edmonton/parent-handbook/>

- Benefits for educators

Agency Response: As part of the cost control framework, Children and Family Services is exploring options for improving wages and benefits for Early Childhood Educators. Announcements and updates should be available here: <https://www.alberta.ca/cost-control-framework-and-for-profit-expansion-plan>



child development dayhomes
peace of mind

ACCELERATE YOUR
EARLY LEARNING AND
CHILDCARE CAREER
WITH OUR AGENCY

APPLY ON OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.CHILDDEV.COM



WE SUPPORT

- EDUCATION
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- HIGH QUALITY CHILDCARE
- COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

CONTACT US TODAY!

Ph: 780-715-1166
Fort McMurray, AB